



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, December 20, 2004

For Information Contact Public Affairs
SANDY RAYNOR
Telephone: (602) 514-7625
Cell: (602) 525-2681

FORMER YUMA INS INSPECTOR INDICTED ON BRIBERY AND TAX EVASION CHARGES

PHOENIX -- Michael Craig Anderson, DOB 12/31/63, and his wife, Gina D. Anderson, DOB 1/03/71, both of Yuma, Ariz., were arrested on Friday, December 17th in Yuma, Ariz. after being charged in a ten-count indictment on December 15th. Michael Anderson was charged with violating 18 U.S. Code Section 371, Conspiracy to Commit Bribery; 18 U.S. Code Section 201 (b)(2)(C), Bribery; 18 U.S. Code Section 1957, Money Laundering; 21 U.S. Code Section 952(a), 960(b)(1)(B)(ii) & 963, Conspiracy to Import Cocaine; 21 U.S. Code Section 952(a), 960(b)(1)(G) & 963 Conspiracy to Import Marijuana; 26 U.S. Code Section 7201, Evasion of Assessment (Tax Evasion); and 26 U.S. Code Section 7206(1), Filing a False Return. Gina Anderson was charged only with the tax related charges. A copy of the indictment is available on request.

From January of 2000 through June of 2001, Michael Anderson was an inspector for the Immigration and Naturalization Service at the San Luis, Ariz. Port of Entry. During that time, he accepted bribes in exchange for allowing vehicles containing marijuana and cocaine to pass from Mexico into the U.S. through the Port of Entry without inspection. Between January and September of 2000, Anderson accepted approximately \$200,000 in cash payments and waived through more than 1000 kilograms of marijuana and five kilograms of cocaine. For 2000 and 2001, the Andersons represented a combined taxable income of \$5,375.

-MORE-

Michael Anderson is in federal custody pending a detention hearing and arraignment on December 22 at 3:00 p.m. Gina Anderson has been released and will appear for an arraignment on December 22 at 3:00 p.m. Both will appear in federal court in Phoenix.

U.S. Attorney Paul Charlton stated that "this office will aggressively prosecute those who betray the public trust and who commit crimes that could potentially lead to harming others, as in allowing illegal drugs to pass through our borders." Charlton recently formed a Public Corruption section within his office and conducted a workshop for federal, state, and local criminal justice agencies in order to help identify and prosecute public corruption crimes throughout Arizona.

A conviction for each of the ten counts carries a maximum penalty of between three and 15 years, a \$250,000 fine or both except for the conspiracy to import marijuana/cocaine charges which have a mandatory minimum of ten years with a maximum penalty of life in prison.

An indictment is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The investigation preceding the indictment was conducted by agents with the FBI and Special Agents of the Phoenix Field Office of the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Division.

The prosecution is being handled by John Boyle and Mary Beth Pfister, Assistant U.S. Attorneys, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

CASE NUMBER: CR-04-1281-PHX
RELEASE NUMBER: 2004-204

#